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Imagery analysis report.

Thal Desert Bombing Range, Pakistan (S)

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THAL DESERT BOMBING RANGE, PAKISTAN (S)

1. (S/D) The presence of a conventional bombing range in the Thal Desert in central Pakistan (Figure 1) was confirmed on [REDACTED] Since August 1979, this range (Thal Desert Bombing Range; [REDACTED] had been reported by NPIC as a suspected [REDACTED] test-related facility. However, as a result of the recent construction of a simulated airstrip and the addition of a simulated truck convoy, this facility can now be identified as a bombing range (Figure 2). This centrally located range is 120 nautical miles (nm) west-southwest of Lahore and is within a 120-nm radius of three major Pakistani fighter bases. This range is similar to the Sonmiani Bombing Range [REDACTED] on the southern coast of Pakistan (Figures 1 and 3). The Sonmiani range consists of a simulated airstrip, numerous firing lanes, three observation towers, two concentric circle target grids, and a support area.

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2. (S/D) The Thal Desert Bombing Range consists of the range facilities and a support area. The range facilities include a simulated airstrip, consisting of an approximately 1,220-meter graded and well-marked simulated runway, and four derelict aircraft parked in simulated revetments immediately south of the simulated runway (Figure 4). A simulated truck convoy consisting of 14 derelict trucks (five on graphic) is dispersed along a road immediately east of the runway. Numerous firing lanes are approximately 1,220 meters south of the simulated airstrip, and three observation towers are dispersed in an east-west line through the firing lanes (Figure 2). The towers are identical, and a helicopter landing pad is near the center tower (Figure 5). Two concentric circle target grids are between the simulated airstrip and the firing lanes. A third target grid, which was being refurbished, is approximately 925 meters north of the simulated airstrip (Figure 6). The fence-secured support area (Figure 7) is immediately south of the firing lanes and consists of eight buildings, one observation tower, and one helicopter landing pad.

IMAGERY

[REDACTED]

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

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FIGURE 1. THAL DESERT AND SONMIANI BOMBING RANGES, PAKISTAN

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